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the judicious hand of the author. Since they have said these things so well, why, indeed, should the author say them over again in his own way, which, in many cases, he may be justified in thinking will not be a better way? Certainly, if the author has not much to say, it is well he should say little, but the reader may sometimes feel that he has heard these judicial voices before; they were acquaintances of his early student life, and friends before he finished. But they were not always in accord, and they left problems which as yet he has not been able to solve. He looks at a new work such as this with hope for new light on these problems; he finds them stated, finds a clear and systematic setting forth of the law on the question; a book to which he can turn to settle a half forgotten point or confirm his remembrance of others; in many ways a most satisfactory book, and if he asks for more, he is probably ungrateful, for he is asking for what is denied him in the vast majority of the books upon the law which now come to him. And since the supply of others is so limited, he may well ask himself if the demand is not limited also, and if he is not of a minority too small to be of concern to the makers of books.

M. C. K.

A COMPENDIUM OF INSANITY. By JOHN B. CHAPIN, M.D., L.L.D. Illustrated. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1898.

A book by so eminent an authority as Dr. Chapin is always deserving of careful attention, and when, as in this case, it supplies a professional want of long standing, viz., a compendium in a concise form, of the diseases of the mind, stripped as far as practicable of technical terms, it deserves conscientious appreciation. After stating that the abnormal conditions and manifestations usually embraced under the terms "insanity" and "idiocy," or occurring as complications of bodily disease, are better studied when aided by a knowledge of the operations of the mind in its normal condition, the author devotes an introductory chapter to the consideration of the operative faculties of the normal mind, which, for purposes of convenience, he divides into the *intellectual faculties, the emotions or feelings, and the will*, and the relation of the physical characteristics of individuals to mental peculiarities.

The treatise itself is comprehensive yet simple. A chapter on Idiocy and Imbecility, in which an accurate definition and description of each is given, and the distinction between them explained, is followed by one devoted to the definitions of insanity. After quoting several, he gives his commendation to the following: "Insanity is that mental condition characterized by a prolonged change in the usual manner of thinking, acting, and feeling—the result of disease or mental degeneration." Chapter III. defines and distinguishes the terms Delusion, Hallucination and Illusion, and then the author points out that, as these usurp the places of other ideas, they make new channels and operate upon individuals so as

to excite actions. This phase of the subject is treated in a chapter entitled Actions of the Insane. The classification and nomenclature of the various forms of Insanity—Mania, Melancholia, Periodic Insanity, Progressive Systematic Insanity, Dementia, Organic and Senile Dementia, General Paralysis, Insane Neurosis, Toxic Insanity, Moral and Impulsive Insanity, Idiocy—and a treatment of each of them, follows in logical order, together with valuable suggestions for treatment in each of these forms. Interesting, though brief, is a chapter on those Abnormal Psychical States brought about by traumatic or moral shocks, or obscure nervous diseases, which manifest themselves by a suspension of conscious cerebration, or of the function of some of the faculties of the mind, as the will and memory. The author points out that persons so affected cannot be classed as insane and cautions great care in fixing a degree of mental responsibility. The relation of Morbid Anatomy to Insanity, a chapter on Medical Certificates and Feigned Insanity, of great practical value, complete this treatise. The author gives a concise account of the various steps in the proceedings for the detention and treatment of the insane in hospitals, and emphasizes the responsibility of the physician in this important inquiry.

Even a cursory reading of this work impresses one with the author's complete grasp of his subject, and we have no hesitation in prophesying a complete fulfillment of the hope expressed in the preface that "it will prove helpful to members of the legal profession, and to others who, in their relations to the insane, and to those supposed to be insane, of the desire to acquire some practical knowledge of insanity, presented in a form that may be understood by the non-professional reader."

J. A. McK.